

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /087 W
----- 125502

R 131531Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5864

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 8025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA SAYS FORGET GOWON

REF: LAGOS 5919

1. /NIGERIAN HERALD/ JULY 9 REPORTS MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA RESPONDED TO NEWSMAN'S QUESTION IN NAIROBI (ENROUTE HOME FROM OAU SUMMIT) TO EFFECT THAT NIGERIA SHOULD FORGET GOWON AFFAIR AND GET ON WITH MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS. GARBA ALSO UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SAID NIGERIA'S TIES WITH BRITAIN ARE AS GOOD AS THOSE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES BUT THAT THE "SPECIAL WARM RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD ENDED.

2. COMMENT: FMG HAS OBVIOUSLY DECIDED LAY ASIDE GOWON AFFAIR. BRITISH HAVE EMERGED FROM IMBROGLIO IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN MOST OBSERVERS WOULD HAVE PREDICTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. HOWEVER WIDESPREAD BITTERNESS OVER PERCEIVED HMG "PROTECTION" OF GOWON AND SUSPICION OF FOREIGN CONNIVANCE IN ABORTIVE COUP REMAIN READY FOR GOVERNMENT USE SHOULD IT SEE NEED FOR
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SCAPEGOAT.

CROSBY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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